



BY THE KING.

A Proclamation against the Oppression of the Clergy by the Intrusion of Faction and Schismaticall Persons into their Cures, and inverting and detaining their Tithes and possessions by Orders of one or both Houses of Parliament, contrary to all Law and Justice.



HEREAS by the Great Charter of the Liberties of England it is provided, that the Church should have all its Rights whole, and Liberties inviolable; and amongst others the Church hath these Priviledges, That regularly no Ecclesiasticall Possessions may be extended, seized or sequestred but by the Ordinary, And that Distresses may not be taken of Lands wherewith Churches have been anciently endowed; And that Churches presentative cannot be filled, and the Lawfull Incumbents thereof removed but by the Ordinary, nor the Cure of the Incumbents served by Curates, Lecturers or others, but by their own appoyntment, or in their default by the appoyntment of the Ordinary; neither are any of Our Subjects of the Laity by the Common Lawes of Our Realme capable to take or receive Tithes (which are the portion of the Clergy) unlesse by demise from them, or such as are appropriate and made Lay-Fee: Neverthelesse by colour of Orders or pretended Ordinances of one or both Houses of Parliament, the Estates Reall and Personall as well of Our Clergy as Laity have been and are daily seized, sequestred and taken from them, and their Possessions distrayned for illegall Taxes and Contributions for supporting the Rebellion against Us; Which being clearly against Law and unwarrantable, We did forbid by Our Proclamation of the seventh of *Aprill* last, and doe hereby forbid the same, under the penalties in that Our Proclamation contained. And whereas divers of Our Clergy eminent for their Piety and Learning, because they publish Our lawfull and just Commands and Declarations, and will not, against the known Lawes of the Land and their own Consciences, submit to Contributions, nor publicly pray against Us and Our Assitants, but conforme themselves to the Book of Common-Prayer established by Law, and Preach Gods Word according to the purity thereof, and in their Sermons will not teach Sedition, nor will publish illegall Commands and Orders for fomenting the unnaturall Warre levied against Us, are some of them driven and forced from their Cures and Habitations, some others Silenced and discharged from the Exercise of their Cures, and Persecuted, and their Curates, if Orthodox, displaced, and others who are Factionous and Schismaticall intruded and put in, to sow Sedition and seduce Our good Subjects from their obedience, expressly contrary to the word of God, and the Lawes of the Land; and the Glebes, Tithes, and other emoluments of Right belonging to such Incumbents as will not conforme to that Faction, are diverted in all Parishes where such Arbitrary power prevails, and distributed, part to such factionous Curates, and the rest to the maintenance of this Warre, against Law and the Liberties of the Church; Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, and We doe hereby straitly charge and Command all Our Subjects as well Ecclesiasticall as Temporal, not to presume to intermeddle in discharging or hindering any of Our said Clergy for the cause aforesaid,